

Application Serial No. 10/695,886
Art Unit 3734

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as indicated below. The language being added is underlined ("___") and the language being deleted contains a strikethrough ("").

Please substitute the following annotated paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 14:

While FIGs. 3 - 5 depict the suture needle 200 having visual indicators that are either blue or yellow, each visual indicator may also be any color or any combination of colors, or any indicia that would serve to identify or distinguish one surface of the needle from another. For example, the visual indication can also be accomplished by stripes, plaid, checkerboard, speckled, or various patterns, symbols, letters, numbers, or any design or representation that would indicate to a viewer that a particular surface of the suture needle 200 is either viewed or not viewed. By understanding the visual indicator, and upon determining whether it is viewed or not viewed, cues are given to a viewer as to the orientation of the suture needle 200 without a need for manipulation of the suture needle 200. Additionally or alternatively to the above representations, the visual indicator may be a surface treatment, for example, a darkened, raised, matte, dulled, non-reflective, brushed metal, photoluminescent, or other type of surface that would reflect light differently than another surface of the suture needle 200. Thus, it should be understood that means for distinguishing between a front surface and a rear surface of a shaft can be accomplished by stripes, plaid, checkerboard, speckled, or various patterns, symbols, letters, numbers, or any design or surface treatment. Those skilled in the art will appreciate other means for distinguishing between the front surface and rear surface of a suture needle.